Learning are addressing the issue of environmental disasters. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had introduced Disaster Management as a part of the Curriculum in Social Science in the year 2003-2004 in Class VIII and subsequently in Class IX during the year 2004-2005. CBSE will introduce a Disaster Management course in Class X in the academic year 2005-2006.

Drop outs in schools

†647. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of students discontinuing their study at Primary and Secondary Schools level is alarming;

(b) if so, the number of such students in Primary and Middle Schools on National Level; and

(c) the States where this number exceeds the National Level; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, during 2002-03, the dropout rates at the National Level at the primary and secondary school stage were 34.89 and 62.58 per cent. respectively.

(c) During 2002-03, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar including Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal, the dropouts at the primary/secondary school level exceeds the national average.

Meeting of State Education Ministers

648. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether two day conference of the State Education Ministers was held in January, 2005 in Bangalore to discuss admissions and fixing tution fees for the professional education through self financing institutions regulate private universities and entry of foreign universities in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent these steps were discussed in the conference;

(c) the final decisions arrived there at;

(d) the steps being taken to implement them;

(e) whether the State Education Ministers have also discussed entry of the foreign universities and explored the possibility of enacting a central legislation to regulate them; and

(f) whether all the States have agreed on a central law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) A Conference of the State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education was held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005 mainly to discuss (i) admission and fixation of tuition fee for professional education through self-financing private institutions; (ii) regulation of private universities; and (iii) entry of foriegn universities in India; there was a general consensus among the states for a Central legislation regarding the issue relating to admission and regulation of fee. Accordingly, legislation has been drafted for vetting by concerned departments for circulation among the various stakeholders including the State Governments. There is no consensus with regard to the issues relating to private universities and Foreign Universities. A Committee of CABE is addressing all aspects of financing of universities. A Committee of experts is looking into various issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

Mushrooming of Private Technical Institutes

649. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have expressed concern on the mushrooming of private technical institutes in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that these private technical institute can create problems for the students coming out of these institutes in getting job; and